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# TOOLS AND WEAPONS OF PROTO-MAN.

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If this collection does not represent the beginning of human handicraft, it must be considered as an extremely early stage of it. The weapons of offence, the lance and spear heads, with their single barb, un laminated edges, and great weight, seem fashioned for thrusting, not throwing. In all probability the need for javelins came afterwards as animals grew more wary of man.

The foot-shaped implements, *Push-Planes*, to adopt a non-committal name, are of two kinds :

- (a) With a flat base ;
- (b) With a concave base.

(a) Some of these remind one of the modern Egyptian "rasper" for the soles of the feet, used also in the shape of rough stones by Australians, and called "bruisers." (a) are more numerous apparently than other implements ; more so than (b) for instance. Experiment has been made with them in extracting fibre from the New Zealand flax plant (*Phormium tenax*). By soaking the leaf in water, and then rubbing with these, quite satisfactory fibre has been obtained. The absence of "skin-scrapers" from this early culture, points to the use of fibre, rather than thongs, for binding the heads of weapons to the hafts. The grip provided seems only adapted to this pushing and planing process.

(b) One may assume, from the analogy of the "body-stones" of some native tribes, that these were for scraping down the arms and legs, for which purpose they seem well adapted. Moreover, the grip is especially serviceable for this purpose and differs from the grip required for (a).

There is a third kind of plane, apparently for a different though analogous purpose, of which the base is narrower, and the vertical transverse section shows one flat side.

It will be remarked as regards (a) and (b), and the collection generally, that the stones have :—

1. A uniform patination on the worked surfaces.
2. A definite axial line of symmetry.
3. An intact cortex in the portions where the natural stone is of the required shape.
4. And that all balance and finish is made intelligently.

The majority of these were not promiscuously scattered over likely areas, but may be said in the main to constitute the product of extremely small patches in extensive hunting grounds.

A collection having been made of various implements before their significance could be fully grasped, there was found in a small space of about 50 yards square a complete replica of the whole previous collection, numbering some 150, in this small area, but of a wholly different patina. Other patches nearly equally productive are shown on the roughly outlined map, with their height above sea level. (On view with the Collection.)

These were all surface finds certainly, but it is agreed now that such finds are of value under certain circumstances. There is, moreover, a deposit of flints in a chalk valley which contains similar implements at some depth below the surface.

It will be observed that the “flaking” is very peculiar : as if the flint was cut in a soft condition. As flints must have some time or other passed through a plastic condition, this difficulty of appreciating the flaking as the work of man is not insuperable. The subsequent hardening would take place after exposure as happens in the case of freestone losing its “quarry water.”

60° or 70° with flat backs